

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 02337 081825Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SS-15
PM-05 EB-08 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /065 W
-----063349 081827Z /43

O 081747Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6308
INFO EC COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 2337

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: EEC PGOV PORG DA
SUB: EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING, COPENHAGEN APRIL 7-8: ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL SITUATION
REF: COPENHAGEN 2332

DURING READ-OUT AFTER EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING, DANES GAVE US
FOLLOWING TEXT, ENTITLED "THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SITUATION". THIS
WAS LATER DISTRIBUTED TO PRESS.

QUOTE: THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SITUATION

THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AGREED THAT THE COMMUNITY AND ITS MEMBER
COUNTRIES WILL OVER THE COMING THREE MONTHS DEVELOP A COMMON
STRATEGY DESIGNED TO REVERS THE PRESENT UNSATISFACTORY TREND IN
THE COMMUNITY'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SITUATION. THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL
WAS CONVINCED THAT THIS COURSE OF ACTION WILL CONSTITUTUE AN
AMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO OVERALL INTERNATAIONAL ACTION TO PROMOTE
WORLD ECONOMIC RECOVERY. IT WILL AT THE SAME TIME FACILITATE
PROGRESS TOWARDS ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION.

THE COMMON STRATEGY WILL COVER ECONOMIC AND MONETARY AFFAIRS,
EMPLOYMENT, ENERGY, TRADE, INDUSTRIAL AFFIARS, AND RELATIONS WITH
THE DEVELOPING WORLD.

THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL ASKED THE COUNCIL (GENERAL AFFAIRS) TO
CO-ORDINATE THE EFFORTS OF THE COUNCIL IN ITS VARIOUS FORMATIONS,
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AND TO PREPARE THE NECESSARY CONCLUSIONS OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL
AT ITS SESSION IN JULY 1978.

1. THE COUNCIL CONSIDERS IT ESSENTIAL THAT THE COMMUNITY WILL HAVE
ACHIEVED AN ANNUAL GROWTH RATE OF 4.5 PER CENT BY THE MIDLED OF
1979.

WITH THIS IN MIND THE COMMUNITY WILL IN THE COMING MONTHS
ASSESS THE EFFECTS OF PRESENT NATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICIES AND ON

THIS BASIS DEFINE THE NEED FOR - AND IN APPROPRIATE CASES - THE MARGIN OF MANOEUVRE OPEN TO MEMBER STATES FOR CO-ORDINATED ADDITIONAL MEASURES DESIGNED TO REALIZE THE NECESSARY GROWTH WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

DURING THE SAME PERIOD THE COMMUNITY WILL THROUGH COMMON MEASURES SUPPORT THE ACTION OF MEMBER STATES AND MAKE BETTER USE OF EXISTING COMMON FACILITIES TO ALLEVIATE PRESENT RESTRAINTS ON MEMBER COUNTRIES' POSSIBILITIES FOR ACTION. IN THIS CONNECTION THE COUNCIL REFERRED TO THE SO-CALLED COMMUNITY LOAN FACILITY. IT ALSO INVITED THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE EIB TO ADOPT AT ITS MEETING IN JUNE A DECISION TO DOUBLE THE CAPITAL OF THE BANK.

2. THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL DISCUSSED THE NEED FOR INCREASED MONETARY STABILITY BOTH WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AND ON A WORLD-WIDE BASIS. IN THIS CONTEXT IT RECOGNIZED THE NEED TO AVOID DISRUPTIVE CAPITAL FLOWS.

3. THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL EXPRESSED ITS DEEP CONCERN OVER THE PERSISTENT HIGH RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND AGREED THAT AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION IS A KEY OBJECTIVE OF THE COMMON OVER-ALL STRATEGY OF THE COMMUNITY. IT STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE COMMUNITY'S GROWTH OBJECTIVE IN THIS CONTEXT.

THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AGREED THAT THE NEED FOR COMPLEMENTARY SPECIFIC MEASURES TO COMBAT UNEMPLOYMENT, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO YOUNG PEOPLE, SHOULD BE EXAMINED.

THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AGREED WITH THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT THAT THE BEST WAY OF DEALING WITH UNEMPLOYMENT IS TO CREATE NEW JOBS THROUGH ACTIVE ECONOMIC, EMPLOYMENT AND INVESTMENT UNCLASSIFIED

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POLICIES, BUT THAT IT SHOULD BE FURTHER EXAMINED WHETHER WORK-SHARING MEASURES COULD HAVE A SUPPLEMENTARY PART TO PLAY IN ALLEVIATING THE PRESENT GRAVE EMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS.

4. THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL WAS CONVINCED THAT SUSTAINED INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC STABILITY DEPENDS SIGNIFICANTLY ON VIGOROUS EFFORTS IN ALL INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES TO REDUCE DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTED OIL THROUGH ENERGY SAVINGS AND INCREASED ENERGY PRODUCTION.

THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AGREED THAT THE HIGH DEMAND FOR IMPORTED OIL IS A CRITICAL PROBLEM FOR THE COMMUNITY. MORE COMPREHENSIVE AND VIGOROUS EFFORTS AT NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY LEVEL TO REDUCE DEMAND AND INCREASE SUPPLY OF ENERGY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY ARE URGENTLY NEEDED. IT RECOGNIZED THAT THIS PRESUPPOSES LARGE SCALE INVESTMENTS. SUCH EFFORTS WILL BE GIVEN HIGH PRIORITY, BECAUSE THEY WILL AT THE SAME TIME PROMOTE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY, CREATE NEW JOBS AND IMPROVE THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS.

5. THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AGREED THAT SUSTAINED GROWTH IN WORLD TRADE IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE PROMOTION OF WORLD ECONOMIC RECOVERY. THEREFORE PROTECTIONIST TENDENCIES MUST BE RESISTED. A RAPID AND SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WILL INCREASE CONFIDENCE IN THE WORLD TRADE SYSTEM.

THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AGREED THAT FURTHER PROGRESS SHOULD BE MADE TO ELIMINATE OBSTACLES TO THE FREE MOVEMENT OF GOODS WITHIN

THE COMMUNITY.

6. THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO RESTORE THE COMPETITIVENESS OF INDUSTRIES IN DISTRESS. THIS REMAINS THE BASIC AIM OF NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY POLICIES IN THIS FIELD.

"IN THIS CONNECTION IT UNDERLINED THE NECESSITY TO SET UP TRIPARTITE FRAMEWORKS ON AN EUROPEAN LEVEL TO OVERCOME THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS OF STRUCTURAL OVER-CAPACITY IN SEVERAL INDUSTRIES AND TO PROMOTE AN INDUSTRIAL STRUCTURE THAT CAN MAINTAIN ITSELF IN WORLD-WIDE COMPETITION."

7. THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL POINTED OUT THAT THE PURSUIT OF GREATER INTERNAL COHESION IMPLYING ALSO A REDUCTION IN REGIONAL IMBALANCES, CONSTITUTES ONE OF THE KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE.

8. THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL RECALL THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF UNCLASSIFIED

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MINISTERS OF NOVEMBER 1975 AND JULY 1976 RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR A RE-EXAMINATION OF THE AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS AFFECTING THE MEDITERRANEAN REGIONS OF THE COMMUNITY. IN THIS SPIRIT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL WAS OF THE OPINION THAT THE COUNCIL (AGRICULTURE) SHOULD ENDEAVOUR TO REACH A DECISION BY THE END OF APRIL TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE PROPOSALS FROM THE COMMISSION.

9. THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL NOTED THAT AN OVERALL INCREASE IN THE FLOW OF AID TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WILL FACILITATE THEIR POSSIBILITIES OF PLAYING A GREATER PART IN A GENERAL RECOVERY OF THE WORLD ECONOMY.

THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL REAFFIRMED THE WILL OF THE COMMUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE CONSTRUCTIVELY TO PROGRESS IN THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE IN ORDER TO PROMOTE A MORE JUST AND EQUITABLE WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER.

10. THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL ASKED THE COUNCIL IN ITS VARIOUS FORMATIONS TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS OVER THE COMING THREE MONTHS TOWARDS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE OBJECTIVES MENTIONED ABOVE. UNQUOTE. COMMENTS FOLLOW SEPTEL.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, MEETINGS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, SOCIAL PROBLEMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978COPENH02337
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780152-0985
Format: TEL
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780478/aaaacoev.tel
Line Count: 154
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 32b4aab3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 COPENHAGEN 2332
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3030984
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING, COPENHAGEN APRIL 7-8: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SITUATION
TAGS: PGOV, PORG, DA, US, EEC
To: STATE USEEC
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/32b4aab3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014